REMARKS

An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for one (1) excess independent claim and two (2) excess total claims.

Claims 1-22 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-7 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 8-22 have been added to assure Applicant the degree of protection to which his invention entitles him.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mottola, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,737,908. Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mottola, et al., in view of Oda, U.S. Patent No. 6,011,429. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 4 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits, however, that all the claims are allowable.

Mottola, et al., has a filing date of September 3, 2002. The present application has a priority date of August 28, 2002, prior to the filing date of Mottola, et al. A certified English language translation of the priority application is submitted herewith. Thus, Mottola, et al.

22

does not provide a basis for rejection of the claims.

Claims 8, 9, 16, and 22 recite that the switching element is a N-channel MOS transistor. In contrast, Mottola discloses a PNP transistor Q7 as a switching element. A N-channel MOS transistor of a given size has a higher discharge performance than does a PNP transistor of the same size. Accordingly, the invention of these claims provides the same discharge effect with a smaller area than does Mottola's circuit. Claims 8, 9, 16, and 22 are allowable for this further reason.

The Office Action objects to the drawings due to duplicated reference characters in Figures 1, 2, and 10. Corrected drawings are submitted herewith. Corresponding amendments have been made to the specification.

The Office Action objects to the specification due to purported ambiguities resulting from duplicated reference characters and due to typographical errors. These have been corrected by the above amendments to the Specification.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract as not conforming with United States practice. A new Abstract, overcoming the objections, is submitted herewith.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-22, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or

Serial No. 10/647,468
Docket No. 2002-249352US

personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: _November 18, 2004_
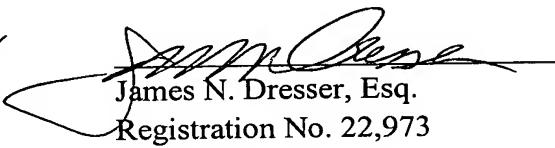
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24

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Figure 1, the left-most reference character R2 is changed to R3.

In Figure 2, the left-most reference character R2 is changed to R3.

In Figure 8, reference character P1 is changed to P11, reference character P2 is changed to P12, reference character P3 is changed to P13, reference character N1 is changed to N11, reference character N2 is changed to N12, reference character R1 is changed to R11, reference character R2 is changed to R12, reference character D1 is changed to D11, reference character D2 is changed to D12, and reference character D3 is changed to D13.

In Figure 10, the left-most reference character R2 is changed to R3.

FIG. 1
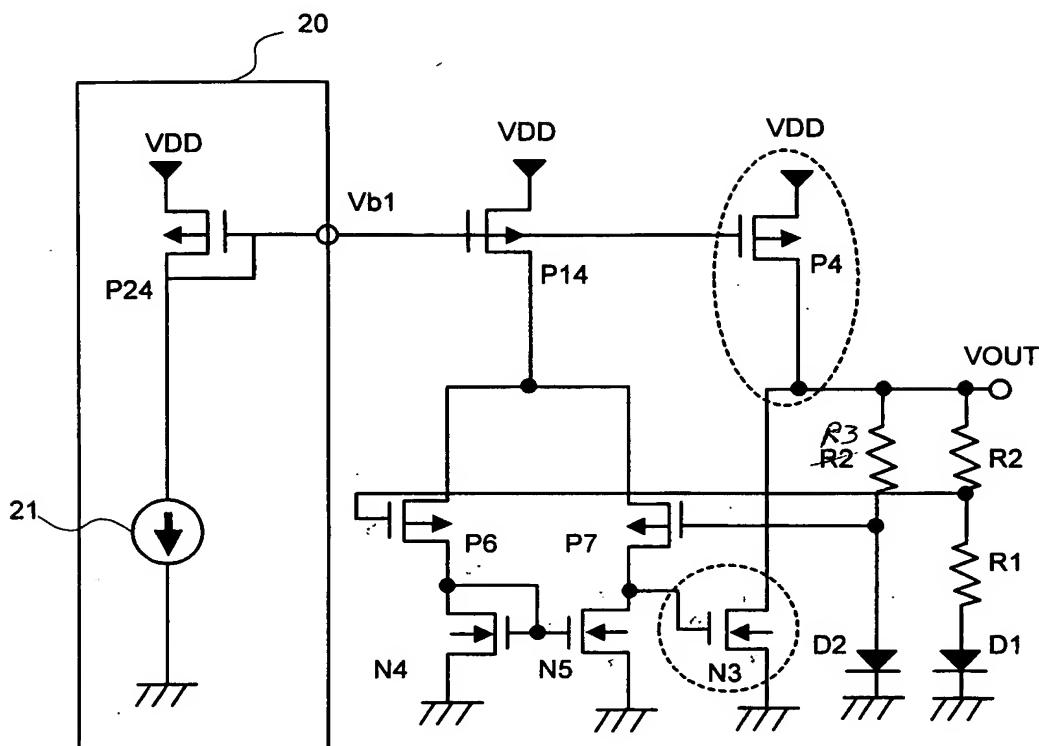
FIG. 2
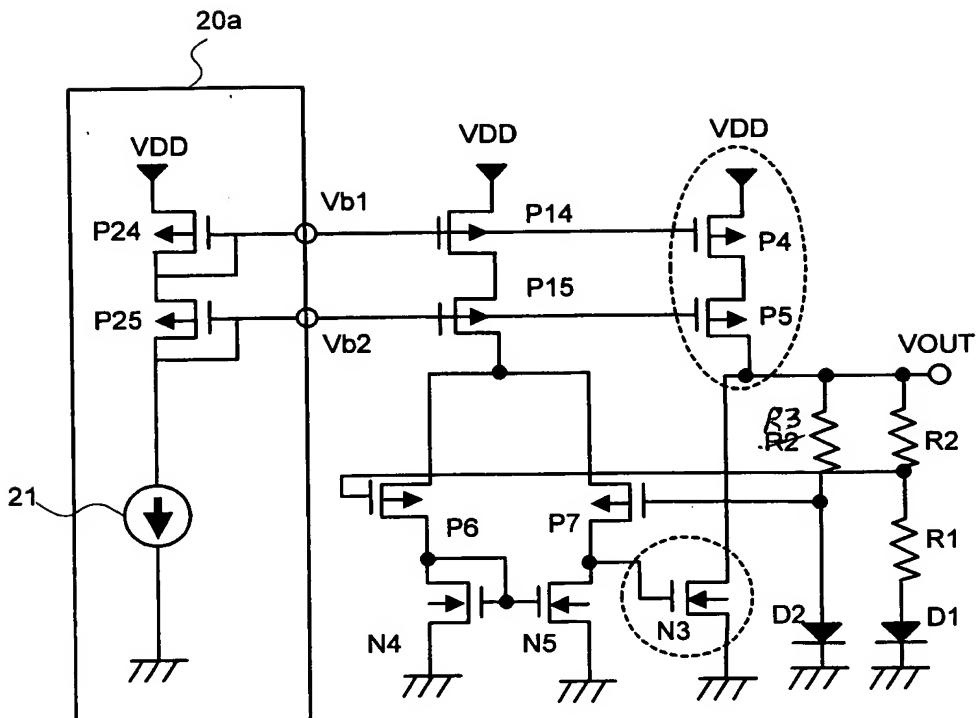
FIG. 3
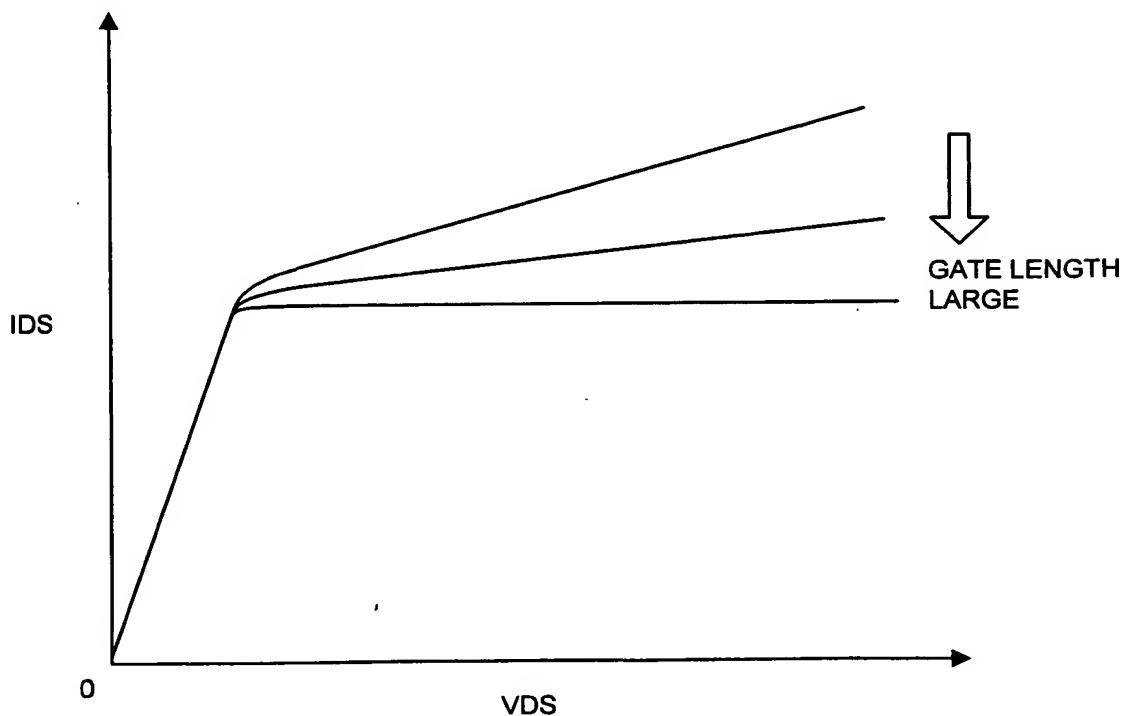
FIG. 8
PRIOR ART
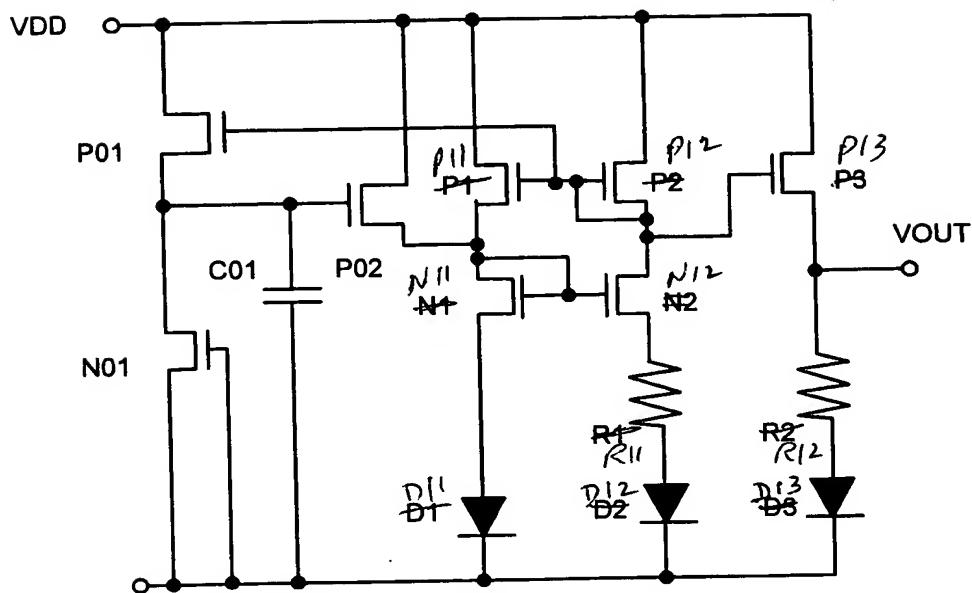
FIG. 9
PRIOR ART
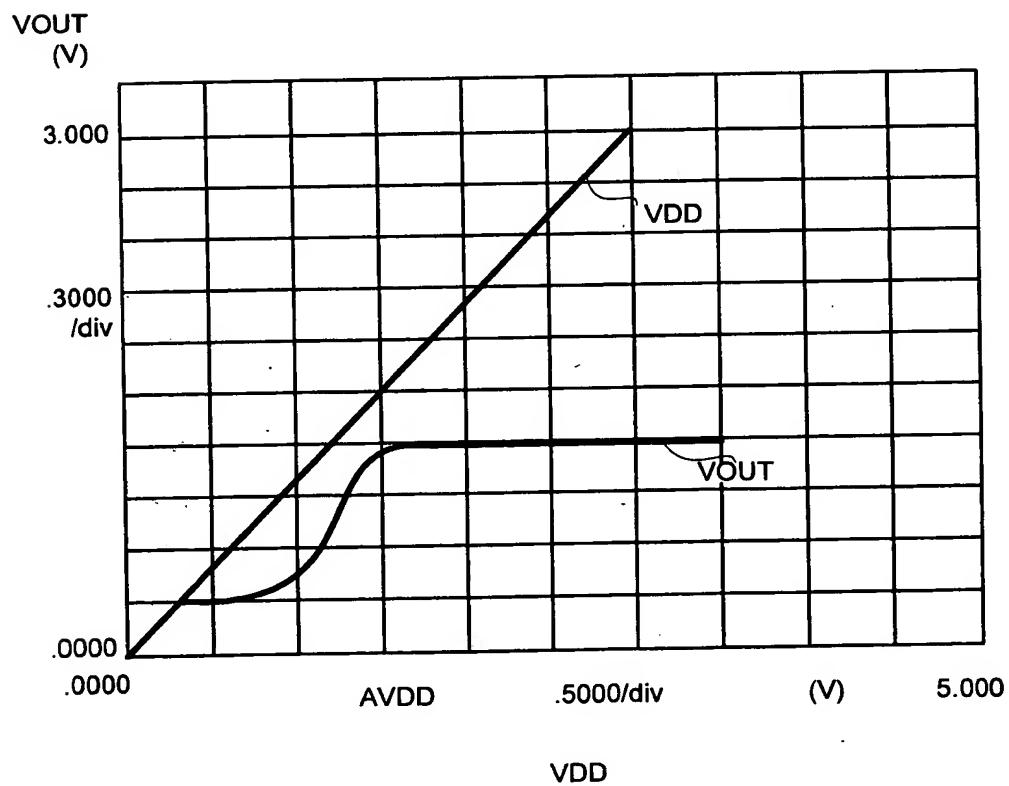
FIG. 10
PRIOR ART

FIG. 11

PRIOR ART